

Inquiring Minds

News and notes from the Department of Clinical Investigation, WRAMC

May/June, 1999

WRAMC-DCI Reviewed by DOD; Receives Praise, high marks

Dr. Salvatore Cirone, Program Director of the Health Science Policy office of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, visited DCI on April 20 and 21, 1999. The purpose of Dr. Cirone's visit was to ensure that DCI was appropriately implementing all relevant laws, directives, and regulations as they pertain to research here at WRAMC. This entailed his examination of IRB minutes, expedited and exempt protocol review files, SOPs, the Multiple Assurance Document, and the Principal Investigator's guide. Dr. Cirone also attended an IRB meeting, and conducted meetings with DCI staff regarding WRAMC's human subject protection program.

Dr. Cirone wrote after his visit that "no deficiencies were noted" in the DCI program at WRAMC. More specifically: "At WRAMC, personnel were knowledgeable of their program.... The WRAMC staff is well-trained and all documents were maintained in a well-organized fashion. The IRB is superb. ... The overall (DCI) program at WRAMC is commendable."

We are pleased to have received such a glowing review, and we will do our best to keep the quality of the Clinical Investigation program at WRAMC at such a high level!

Bailey K. Ashford Award Symposium held on 12 May; winners to be announced at graduation exercise on 18 June

The 13th Bailey K. Ashford (BKA) Clinical and Laboratory Research Award symposium was held on Wednesday, 12 May in Vorder Brugge auditorium, Bldg 1. Over 80 people attended to hear the research presentations of this year's finalists.

The program for this year's symposium was kicked off by COL Maria Sjogren, MC, Chief, DCI, and COL Yancy Phillips, MC, Deputy Commander for Clinical Services, WRAMC. The four finalists for the laboratory research award made their presentations first, followed by the four finalists for the clinical research award.

CPT John LaFrentz, MC, a resident from the Otolaryngology Surgery service, was the first presenter in the laboratory research category. He presented his work in the area of controlling snoring in an animal model, through surgical techniques to make the palate more stiff and thus, reduce snoring. CPT LaFrentz presented as a possible clinical application of his work the problem of

IRB Calendar

The following Institutional Review Board (IRB) meetings will be held in the months of June, July, and August, 1999:

CLINICAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE (CIC):

8 June
15 June
6 July
13 July
August TBA

HUMAN USE COMMITTEE (HUC):

22 June
29 June
20 July
27 July
August TBA

All meetings will begin at 1300 and will be held in the Fourth Floor Conference Room, Building 6, WRAMC.

excessive snoring among a group of soldiers, which would cause a loss of rest and readiness. His work could lead to a solution to that problem.

CPT Patrick Melder, MC, also a resident in the Otolaryngology service, gave the second laboratory research presentation. CPT Melder was able to translate benchtop techniques in molecular biology as a means of determining the clinical diagnosis and prognosis in a rare form of head and neck cancer, Ewing's Sarcoma. Using Polyclonal Recombination (PCR) techniques, CPT Melder was able to detect genetic translocations in archival head and neck tissues containing this form of cancer.

Following CPT Melder was Capt Wanda Salzer, MC, USAF, of the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology service. Capt Salzer used cell lines from tumors in children, as well as rhesus monkeys, for her study on the experimental drug R115777, (Continued on Page 6)

Standard Operating Procedure Regarding Animal Use Protocols

**First in a series of articles from Dr. Audrey Chang,
Chief, Research Review Service, DCI, WRAMC**

If support for an animal use protocol is to be requested from DCI (including funding, statistical consultation, laboratory facilities, or computer facilities), the PI must submit an animal protocol application for scientific review and approval of the study by WRAMC CIC. Any protocol involving the use of animals must also be reviewed and approved by the Animal Use Committee of the institution where the animal work will take place, because WRAMC no longer has an Animal Use Committee (AUC).

Guidelines and regulation for submitting an animal use protocol to DCI:

(a) The principal investigator submits a copy of the animal protocol to the AUC of the facility that will have oversight of the study, for review and approval. AUC approval is required to receive a letter of approval from WRAMC. The local institutions with AUC facility include WRAIR, AFIP, USUHS, and AFFRI.

(b) Preparation, Submission, and Approval Process:

(1) The PI will follow the procedures listed under the instructions for preparation of an Animal Use Protocol, page 9 of the DCI-Principal Investigator Guide, dated 3/01/99 to prepare and submit an animal use protocol.

(2) On the WRAMC application form, section VIII - RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS, item 7, FACILITY MODIFICATION/CAGING COSTS, indicates the institution where the animal study will be approved.

(3) All animal protocols will be reviewed administratively by a DCI protocol coordinator and submitted to Clinical Investigation Committee (CIC) for scientific review and approval.

(c) The required documents are:

(1) One original copy with signature and two copies of the animal protocol in WRAMC application format, including a cover memorandum, the text of the protocol, and a budget page clearly delineating the funding request.

(2) Supporting documents including, IMPACT STATEMENT, ENCLOSURES, INVESTIGATOR COMPLIANCE WITH WRAMC 70-1 AND AR 70-18, RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR IN ANIMAL USE RESEARCH. Two copies of CV (two pages at most) from the principal and associate investigators. A support letter addressing to the principal investigator from all collaborators.

(3) A copy of animal training certificate for the principal and associate investigators.

(4) Research Course - All WRAMC researchers are required to attend the research course sponsored by the WRAMC Commander.

(d) After the CIC approval, upon the receipt of a complete final protocol including revisions (if any) required by the CIC and documents cited above plus the AUC approval letter, an approval letter to begin the study will be prepared by Chief, RRS.

BMAR and COO Calendar for June, July, and August, 1999

In order to be fully compliant with JCAHO and WRAMC guidelines, all DCI personnel must be up to date in their BMAR training. BMAR will be held on the following dates in June, July, and August, 1999. BMAR is held from 0730-1200 in the Joel Auditorium, Building 2:

10 June
24 June
8 July
22 July
12 August
26 August

The following DCI personnel have birthdays in the months of June, July, and August:

Audrey Chang
Derrick Hunter
Sabita Lahiri
Corrine Maydonovitch
Michelle Porter
Janet Kapur
Vicki Miskovsky
Bill Woodcock
David Jackson
Jesse Martin
Elena Morris

Happy Birthday, but please don't forget to attend your BMAR training!!

Also, Consideration of Others (COO) training for building 6 personnel will occur 24 June, from 0900 to 1100 in the Fourth Floor Conference Room, Building 6.

DCI IS 100%!!!

For the first time ever, DCI personnel are in 100% compliance with WRAMC's mandatory training requirements--Command Orientation, Department Orientation, Customer Service training, and BMAR training. In addition, all licensed DCI personnel have their professional licenses current. DCI is the only department at WRAMC that is 100% compliant in all these categories.

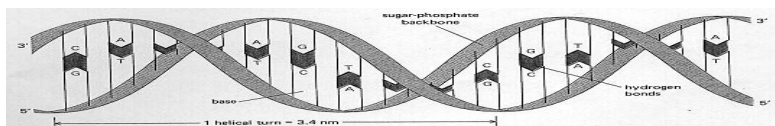
Well done! Now, let's keep up the great work!!

Inquiring Minds is published six times a year by the Department of Clinical Investigation, WRAMC, as a service to DCI employees and the WRAMC research community.

Any submissions or questions about content should be directed to the editors:
Mr. William Woodcock, (202) 782-7829
CPT Andrea Stahl, (202) 782-7823

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DCI Molecular Biology Course To be Taught in July, 1999



The Department of Clinical Investigation will be conducting its third molecular biology course in July. The course will take place on four consecutive Wednesday afternoons from 1300-1700 beginning on the 7th of July. This research course is designed to provide an introduction to the concepts and techniques associated with molecular biology. Major R. Michael Tuttle (Assistant Chief, DCI) is the primary instructor for the course.

Following a short block of instruction designed to provide an overview of the subject area, students move to

the laboratory where DCI research operations staff guide them in performing the molecular techniques. Students learn and perform basic molecular biology techniques such as DNA/RNA isolation and analysis, as well as more advanced techniques like the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC).

If you are interested in attending this course, or a future molecular biology course, please contact Mr. Derrick Hunter, 782-6389.

Why Review is a Continuing Process: How DCI Ensures the Integrity of Research at WRAMC

The recent suspension of research at two nationally recognized research facilities clearly illustrates the need for constant, careful, in-house monitoring of clinical investigation programs.

In late March the Office for Protection from Research Risks (OPRR) suspended research conducted at the Veterans Administration Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS). According to *The Scientist* magazine, administrative shortcomings and an "overall failure to meet federal guidelines" were blamed for the suspension.

More recently, OPRR suspended federally funded research at Duke University, whose nationally recognized research program receives approximately \$175 million a year from the federal government. According to the *Washington Post*, Duke University's violations were largely administrative and included the failure to adequately monitor the progress of human studies as well as the failure to indicate that unique regulations apply to research conducted in children. Additionally, much of what was wrong with the program at Duke apparently involved a lack of available training for Human Use Committee members regarding research related federal regulations.

The message to institutions performing research seems pretty clear--a strong program of researcher education and continuing research oversight are necessary to maintain compliance with federal regulations. Thorough knowledge of the regulations governing research are key in avoiding the administrative problems encountered by the VAGLAHS and Duke University.

A primary mission of the Department of Clinical Investigation is to ensure that those regulations are adhered to at WRAMC. Although many of the regulations imposed on principal investigators may seemingly hinder research efforts, they are designed to provide ample protection for patients, researchers, and institutions. Adherence to these regulations is subject to close scrutiny by agencies such as OPRR and, as demonstrated by the suspensions at VAGLAHS and Duke, violations can have severe repercussions.

DCI has developed a strong program of education and oversight, and works actively to ensure that all applicable research regulations are followed at Walter Reed.

Education of primary investigators is a cornerstone in

maintaining a successful research program. One way that this department ensures principal investigators are familiar with the rules and regulations regarding research is through a required research course. DCI offers a course designed to educate principal investigators on the regulations governing research in this military facility. All principal investigators are required to attend an iteration of this course.

Continual monitoring of on-going protocols is accomplished in a variety of ways. Primary investigators are required to submit an annual progress report to the department detailing the work accomplished in the previous twelve months. Additionally, the department's Clinical Studies Service conducts audits of specific protocols (i.e.: those with many subjects or those involving investigational drugs) and other protocols are conducted by the department's clinical review section.

Another way this department ensures continual compliance with applicable federal and local regulations is through clearance requirements on all publications and abstracts. All work done at WRAMC, by WRAMC assigned personnel, with WRAMC in the by-line, or involving WRAMC patients must be cleared by DCI prior to publication or presentation. This process is designed to ensure that the reported research is institutionally approved.

Unfortunately, despite a history of excellence in clinical and laboratory investigations, the military is particularly vulnerable to misperceptions about its research. This is the result of long ago and isolated violations, such as the Tuskegee Men's Syphilis Experiment. The recent *Vanity Fair* article suggesting that the military may have performed "secret" experiments on Gulf War soldiers illustrates how quickly and negatively the general population responds to accusations of military research improprieties (The Army SGO has addressed these accusations and has found them to be baseless.).

It is important, therefore, that primary investigators and DCI work closely together to avoid any violations of research guidelines or regulations. Through a strong program of continual education and careful, documented review, WRAMC will continue its long tradition of quality research.

DCI strives to help researchers from planning through execution to publication.

Notes from the Research Administration Service

By Ed Garcia, Chief, RAS, DCI, WRAMC

---The Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) plan is currently in the middle of an open season, which will last until 30 June 1999. During this open season you are eligible to change your life insurance coverage in any way. Also, there are new benefits relating to dependent life insurance about which you should be aware. Information about the FEGLI open season and enrollment forms are available in my office, Room 4009, building 6.

--- I wanted to take this opportunity to update all investigators on the proper procedure for clearing your paper or presentation through WRAMC. If you have written a paper for submission to a scientific journal, you must complete a clearance memo (a version of this memo is available for download on the DCI Web site). It is the investigator's responsibility to route the memo through their service chief, Department chief, and through the Office of Public Affairs in Building 1. ONLY after the memo is cleared through Public Affairs should the memo be brought to DCI for action. Once the memo is approved by DCI, the paper is cleared for publication and can be submitted to the journal in question.

There have been expectations on the part of some that DCI can perform the entire publication clearance process on its own; unfortunately, that is not the case. Also, this process must be completed BEFORE the paper is submitted to the journal, not at the same time.

If you have any questions about this process please feel free to contact CPT Andrea Stahl at (202) 782-7823 or myself at (202) 782-7859.

--- The next few items deal in the world of Information Technology. First, on all orders of computer-related hardware and software, per instruction from DOIM, supply orders can not contain a request for hardware and a request for software on the same order. Please group hardware items and software items on separate supply requests.

Next WRAMC Research Course Scheduled for 9 September

The next WRAMC Research Course, presented by the Department of Clinical Investigation, has been scheduled for Thursday, 9 September, 1999. Unlike the previous courses, which lasted for a day and a half, this course will be completed in one day, from approximately 0800 to approximately 1630.

Please make note of this date, as it is essential that anyone wishing to serve as a Principal Investigator on research at WRAMC receives this course. Look for more information about the September Research Course in the next issue of *Inquiring Minds*.

--- Also, I'm sure that everyone is aware of "Melissa" and other similar viruses which have been popping up lately. DO NOT open any attached files from e-mails if you do not trust the source of the e-mail. With the coming of the Year 2000, we can expect more virus scares--both hoaxes as well as the real thing--in the coming months.

---Speaking of Y2K, the following comes from DCI's Computer Lab:
Y2K Awareness #1 - Microsoft Excel 97

Last week, a DCI staff member brought the following to our attention: As she typed "24" in MS Excel 97 to represent patient DOB she assumed that 1924 would be recorded; however, 2024 was recorded. This message begins a series of awarenesses that will be shared with you as we discover them.

Awareness #1: In MS Excel 97, SR2 (This is with the Microsoft Y2K Service Release Patch #2 applied for which we have applied to most MS Office97 in use at DCI) typing in 2-digit dates from 00 to 29 will be recorded as 2000 dates; whereas typing in 30-99 will be recorded as 1900 dates.

As this shows, the safe way to enter/display all dates in any application is as 4-digits; i.e., 1924 or 2030. IBM has expressed this for all Lotus spreadsheets and it should be applied to all record keeping where 1900 or 2000 representation is or will be in question.

If you see a Y2K problem, please share it with us so that we can work with it and share with others.

If you have any questions about any of the above, or about the Research Administration Service in general, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 782-7859.

DCI is SHARPP...

Striving to

Help

All

Researchers from

Planning to

Publication

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Recently- approved protocols at WRAMC

Congratulations to the following principal investigators for their recently approved protocols.

Department of Clinical Investigation

9219-99 Molecular Marker of Radiation Induced Thyroid Disease Developing in Subjects Who lived Downwind of the Hanford Nuclear Power Plant During Childhood

Tuttle, R. Michael MAJ MC 3/5/99

9220-99 Molecular Markers of Radiation Induced Thyroid Disease Developing in Subjects Treated with External Beam Irradiation for Tinea Capitis as Children

Tuttle, R. Michael MAJ MC 3/5/99

9222-99 Role of Tyrosine Kinases in Differentiated Thyroid Cancer

Patel, Aneeta, MS, DAC 3/31/99

9223-99 An Investigation of Oxidative Damage to Proteins in Thyroid Autoimmunity

Lahiri, Sabita, DAC 5/6/99

9224-99 Quantitative Examination of the Expression of Thyroid Hormone Responsive Mrna Species in Hyperthyroidism, Hypothyroidism, and the Polar T3 Syndrome

Anderson, Jeffrey, DAC 5/6/99

Department of Medicine

Gastroenterology Service

1452-99 Prospective Evaluation of the Digital Rectal Examination as a Cause of False Positive Hemoccult Testing

Polish, Roger D. CPT, MC 3/24/99

General Medicine Service

1061-99 Mental Disorders in a Neurology Clinic Setting

Ekstrand, John R. MAJ MC 4/23/99

Hematology-Oncology Service

1517-99 CALGB 119801: Telephone Monitoring: Early Identification of Psychological Distress in Cancer Patients 65 or More Years Old During Active Treatment

Byrd, John C. MAJ MC 3/15/99

1623-99 Pilot Study to Compare and Evaluate the Safety and Impact of IDEC-C2B8 (IDEC 120) on Immunization Potential

Byrd, John MAJ MC 3/17/99

Infectious Disease Service

1907-99 Amprenavir (141W94) Open Label Protocol for Subjects with HIV-1 Infection Who Have Experienced Treatment Failure or are Intolerant to

Previous Protease Inhibitor Therapy.
Wortmann, Glenn MAJ MC 3/19/99

Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine Service

1707-99 Dose Form Patient Asthma Education in NHLBI Guidelines Equate with Improved Morbidity and Mortality?

Kristo, David A. MAJ MC 5/10/99

1708-99 Four-Weeks of Provigal (Modafinil) Treatment on Excessive Daytime Sleepiness in Obstructive Sleep Apnea Patients Treated With Nasal Continuous Positive Airway Pressure

Loube, Daniel MAJ MC 5/7/99

Department of Neurology

7176-99 The Neuroprotective Effect of Non-NMDA Receptors in Cultured Rat Cerebellar Granule Cells from Sprague-Dawley Rats Pup

Marini, Ann M. M.D., Ph.D. 3/23/99

7177-99 A Study to Validate the Multiple Sclerosis Functional Composite (MSFC) (Protocol Number, C98-841)

Dougherty, David S. COL, MC 5/10/99

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

4404-98 GOG 165: A Randomized Comparison of Radiation Versus Radiation Plus Weekly Cisplatin Vs. Radiation Plus PV1 (Protracted Venous Infusion) 5-FU in Patients with Stage II-B, III-B, and IV-A Carcinoma of the Cervix

Rose, G. Scott MAJ MC 3/15/99

4413-99 The Effect of Environmental CO2 on Thermotolerance Associated Heat Shock Protein Synthesis

Elg, Steven LTC MC 3/18/99

Department of Surgery

General Surgery Service

2079-99 Intraductal Carcinoma of the Breast Treated by Conservative Surgery: Insights Based on Histopathologic Evaluation using Computer Graphic Three Dimensional Reconstruction

Shriver, Craig LTC MC 4/6/99

Orthopedics Surgery Service

2411-99 The Effect of Tibial Malrotation on the Tibiotalar Joint Contact Area

McHale, Kathleen A. COL, MC 4/27/99

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Bailey K. Ashford Symposium (continued from Page 1)

an inhibitor of the enzyme farnesyltransferase, a key enzyme in the growth of these tumors. T the end of her presentation, Capt Salzer outlined some of her plans for the second phase of her project.

The final presenter in the laboratory research category was CPT Houman Tavaf-Motamen, MC, a resident from the General Surgery service. CPT Tavaf-Motamen investigated the molecular nature of the systemic response to severe stress, in an effort to reduce the severity of the body's response to severe trauma. Using a rat model, CPT Tavaf-Motamen induced capillary leaks in order to measure the role of nitric oxide in the pathogenesis of ARDS.

Following CPT Tavaf-Motamen's presentation, the focus shifted to the finalists in the clinical research award competition. MAJ Thomas Miner, MC, a resident in the General Surgery service, was the first to speak. MAJ Miner discussed his work on dissection of the "sentinel" node of breast cancer, and its role as a predictor of the metastatic condition of other malignant nodes and surgical recommendations guiding treatment of those nodes. As the nature of this treatment included the surgical introduction of radiation to the nodes, MAJ Miner also discussed the risks of radiation exposure to the surgical team during this procedure.

Next came CPT Clinton Murray, a resident in the Internal Medicine service. CPT Murray's presentation examined the expression of the cell marker CD56 in acute promyelocytic leukemia. CPT Murray examined the case of a leukemia patient under his care, gathered data from similar cases found in scientific literature, and performed a pooled analysis to ask the question: why did these patients respond to treatment so poorly? Benchwork using samples from the patient under his care indicated that CD56 expression may have been the

reason.

MAJ David Preston, MC, of the Urology service, Department of Surgery, gave the next presentation in the clinical research category. MAJ Preston's work looked at the problem of osteoporosis, which is a problem of androgen deprivation therapy, a common treatment of prostate cancer.

The final presenter in the clinical research category, and of the symposium overall, was CPT Zachary Wassmuth, MC, a resident from the Otolaryngology Surgery service. CPT Wassmuth looked at the problem of snoring as it relates to sleep apnea, a condition which could have serious repercussions, including induction of stroke or heart attack. Using surgical techniques in stiffening the palate, CPT Wassmuth was able to obtain a success rate in reducing snoring which was comparable to other treatments which are more surgically aggressive.

The winners of the laboratory and clinical research awards will be announced at the WRAMC-NNMC graduation exercise on 18 June. Additionally, DCI would like to recognize the semifinalists in this year's BKA award competition for their research efforts: CPT Joseph Flynn, MC, Internal Medicine service; CPT Carla Iudica-Souza, MC, Endocrine service; CPT Mammen Mammen Jr., MC, Infectious Disease service; MAJ Robert Miller, MC, Infectious Disease service; LT Janet Nicolas Myers, MC, USNR, Pulmonary and Critical Care service; MAJ Michael Nelson, MC, Department of Allergy and Immunology; MAJ James Oliver, MC, Nephrology service, and CPT Kevin Stiles, MC, Nephrology service. The work of these young investigators represents some of the most exemplary research done at WRAMC over the past several years.

**Welcome to the following
new DCI employees:**
Pia Casarino-Lepler--
Clinical Studies Service
Cheryl Jackson--
Research Review Service
SPC Brian Reinhardt--
Research Operations Service

From the Orthopaedic Surgery Service:

**The service will hold its annual
Orthopaedic Research Day on 10 June
in Russell Auditorium, AFIP.**

**Please call 782-6573 for
more information.**

Recent WRAMC Publications

Congratulations to the following authors for these recently published papers. The list was compiled from a recent MEDLINE search of the literature. LI listed articles have been cleared through DCI and the WRAMC Public Affairs Office. If you have recently published, and we have not included your publication, please let us know so we may list your publication in the next issue of the newsletter.

Byrd JC, Waselenko JK, Maneatis TJ, Murphy T, Ward FT, Monahan BP, Sipe MA, Donegan S, White CA. **Rituximab therapy in hematologic malignancy patients with circulating blood tumor cells: association with increased infusion-related side effects and rapid blood tumor clearance.** J Clin Oncol 1999 Mar; 17(3): 791-5.

Kuklo TR, Taylor KF, Murphy KP, Islinger RB, Heekin RD, Baker CL Jr. **Arthroscopic release for lateral epicondylitis: a cadaveric model.** Arthroscopy 1999 Apr; 15(3): 259-264.

Miner TJ, Jacques DP, Tavaf-Motamen H, Shriver CD. **Decision making on surgical palliation based on surgical outcome data.** Am J Surg 1999 Feb;177(2): 150-4.

Miner TJ, Tavaf-Motamen H, Stojadinovic A, Shea-Donohue T. **Ischemia-reperfusion protects the rat small intestine against subsequent injury.** J Surg Res 1999 Mar; 82(1): 1-10.

Shorr AF, Niven AS, Howard RS, Phillips YY. **The American College of Physicians' Resident Abstract Competition: success of US military trainees.** Mil Med 1999 Mar; 164(3): 218-220.

Shorr AF, Trotta RF, Alkins SA, Hanzel GS, Diehl LF. **D-dimer assay predicts mortality in critically ill patients without disseminated intravascular coagulation or venous thromboembolic disease.** Intensive Care Med 1999 Feb; 25(2): 207-210.

Welch ML, Anderson LL, Grabski WJ. **Evaluation and management of nonmelanoma skin cancer. The military perspective.** Dermatol Clin 1999 Jan; 17(1):19-28,vii.

A List of Research Intermediary Organizations

The face of military medical research is changing. There are force reductions among military and civilian personnel, and at the same time, there is an increasing interest in the private sector to take advantage of the military's unique competencies in order to hold effective sponsored clinical trials.

Technology transfer between the private sector and the government is possible through use of a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRDA). An article in a future issue of the newsletter will examine the CRDA and its processing in further detail. CRDAs allow for the exchange of resources--including funds, equipment, and personnel--between a private organization and the government.

While the government is authorized to manage CRDAs, in many cases, especially where personnel are to be hired to do research, this is not always practical. We suggest the use of an intermediary agency as a facilitator of privately-sponsored research.

The advantages of using an intermediary to manage the funds of your sponsored research protocol are many.

Among them are:

- support in writing your protocol application, submitting your application, and processing it through the approval process;
- assistance in hiring personnel to work on your research, from advertising the position in local newspapers, to providing salary and benefits for the employee;
- maintaining funds earned on your protocol in an account at the intermediary, and providing purchasing and contracting services for your protocol;
- supporting TDY in support of the sponsored protocol (though travel orders are still to be generated by the government); and
- assisting you in transferring your account to another investigator, should you leave WRAMC and choose not to continue your research. But if you leave WRAMC and wish to continue your research, your account at the intermediary stays intact--you simply have to have your protocol approved at your new post before you can access the funds further.

Be aware, of course, that intermediaries charge an administrative fee for their services.

Here are some of the intermediary agencies that we work with at WRAMC. Please feel free to contact them and explore the services that they offer. For more information, also feel free to call Mr. Bill Woodcock in DCI at (202) 782-7829.

FACT Foundation: (210) 377-3725
Geneva Foundation: (253) 383-1398
Henry M. Jackson Foundation: (301) 424-0800
TRUE: (888) 329-1239

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